Retrenchment due to global economic crisis

742. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many workers lost their jobs since the global economic crisis in Textile sector;

(b) the month-wise details of the same since October, 2008;

(c) the measures taken by Government for the social security of these workers; and

(d) whether there is any measure to ensure that no retrenchment take place in the institutions taking bail out packages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The Government is seized of the submissions of the industry and trade associations regarding loss of jobs in the textiles and clothing/garment industry for global economic crisis. However, no specific or definite number of job loss has been reported so far.

(c) To counter the negative fall out of global economic crisis, Government has taken several focused financial and fiscal measures. Some of the important measures taken by the Government are as follows:

(i) Extension of the DEPB Scheme upto 31st December 2009.

(ii) Restoration of DEPB rates for synthetic textiles items such as polyester viscose yarn, polyester yarn, viscose yarn, polyester filament yarn, etc.;

(iii) Increase of Duty Drawback rates on knitted fabrics and on specified categories of yarn;

(iv) Providing pre and shipment credit assistance in rupees as well as in dollars;

(v) Reduction in import duties of raw materials;

(vi) Reduction in interest rates on export finance;

(vii) The fiscal stimulus of Rs.1,86,000 crores; etc.

(d) There are certain measures devised by the Government to prevent workers from retrenchment, though these are not directly related to the bailout packages. The measures are primarily as under:-

(i) Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 puts restriction on lay-offs and retrenchment and provides protection to the workmen in case of lay-off, retrenchment and closure of establishments.

(ii) Ministry of Labour and Employment is implementing the Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana through the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) which provides unemployment allowance for upto one year to those insured employees who have put in five years of service and have been rendered jobless due to retrenchment, closure of factories or permanent disability due to non-employment injury.

Proposal to ban cotton exports

743. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to ban cotton exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) no Sir.

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) As per Cotton Balance Sheet drawn by the Cotton Advisory Board (CAB), during cotton season 2008-09, total demand of cotton in the country is 264 lakh bales out of the total production of 290 lakh bales. Only 35 lakh bales of cotton has so far been exported in the cotton year 2008-09 leaving carry over stock of 71.50 lakh bales. Since, there is sufficient stock of cotton in the country, question of banning cotton export doesn't arise at present.

CAG objections regarding selling of surplus land by NTC

744. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) had pulled up the National Textile Corporation (NTC) for violating Government guidelines while selling surplus land and buildings at much lower rates than the market value for the period upto March, 2008; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken, if any on the basis of the CAG report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has done a performance audit on sale of surplus land and buildings of National Textile Corporation (NTC), and tabled their report in the Parliament. The observations of CAG are mainly on procedural aspects. NTC is selling its land as per the decision of a duly constituted Asset Sale Committee as per directions of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstructions (BIFR). The land/buildings are sold at the best price available through transparent open tender process after verification of valuation by the Government valuers.

(b) The suggestions made by the CAG have been noted for further refinement of the system. The Committee on Public Undertaking (COPU) has already taken up the CAG report and the first meeting of the Committee has taken place on 12th November, 2009.